

**What Women Are Doing**

TS APR 22 1979

# Public invited to Show House '79

By DOROTHY J. CLARK  
Women's Editor

THE WOMEN'S Service League of Union Hospital is sponsoring the '79 Designers Show House, 328 S. Fifth St., as a community benefit. Initiated in 1974 to provide needed monies updating patient care at Union Hospital.

General chairpersons, Mrs. Arnold Kosofsky and Mrs. Richard Auer, with Mrs. Malcolm Wright as finance chairman, achieved their goal in seeking the Victorian home built in 1894, formerly the Cox-Schell and Blumberg residence. Through the donation of the Visiting Nurses' Association, the present owners, loan of the home made the Show House volunteer project a reality.

The old home is crammed full of fresh ideas, looks and inspiration from decorating experts. The hand-work and endeavor put forth by 21 designers have created innovative facelifts to all the rooms through the use of color in fabric, paint, carpet and pattern. Changes have been made, but not enough to detract from the original architecture and charm as it was originally intended.

As guests arrive, large shade trees, flowering magnolias and enchanting landscaping create a mood of gracious living. Approaching the front entryway, one enjoys the view of soft filtered light and flowering perennials, designed and landscaped by Steven Kelley of Kelley, Inc.

Beginning the tour through the Show House, one enters a foyer and landing complete with a beveled leaded glass window and window well, as well as a red ceramic fireplace, which has been revived by Joan Kasameyer of Kasameyer Glass, Inc., and Bobbi Froderman.

Earthy tones in plush rust carpeting bring out the natural wood and accented wallcovering of copper, gold and rust enhances the windows and crystal chandelier. Accessories include a wall concept of designer mirrors, a grandfather's clock, with strategic use of greenery, decorator pillows, crystal, porcelain and antiques to complete the area with the treasures of a bygone era.

Proceeding through the lower level, visitors will view the Gift Shop Nook with its display of numerous items and accessories for the home. The Gift Shop is located in the lobby of Union Hospital West, and is operated entirely by volunteers of the Women's Service League. Mrs. Henry Bopp Jr., chairman, and Mrs. Noah Heller, co-chairman, are in charge.

Leading back into the home from the foyer is the lower hall with its subtle tones and practicality as key factors in the decor of this hallway. The hall is accented by a display of treasures and art work, designed by Leslie Wilkinson and Gail Schultz of the League.

Walking down the hall, tour-goers will view a ladies' study, gallery, kitchen, downstairs bath, back porch and hall, with a back stairway leading to the second floor areas. On the other side of the hall is a dining room and living room.

The ladies' study, designed by Joy Reese and Lee Ann Clem of Goodwine Galleries, is a woman's world of the nostalgic past. The beauty of this study is achieved with 19th century furnishings, a hand-crafted desk combining County French artistry and the rare charm of Canadian workmanship. A blending of colors is created with Schumacher wallcovering and distinctive carpet. The study is a restful area for the planning of menus, balancing a checkbook, or simple escape from the everyday life of a woman's world.

Designer Meg de Mougin, of Windove, has transformed a small room into a Gallery. The warmth of this room has been achieved with rich tones of brass, copper and bronze, a retreat for the creative person to do painting or sketching. A contemporary mahogany chair for reading and relaxation blends with yesterday's window seat and beveled glass bookcase. Accessories feature a wall hanging of combined macrame, weaving, pierced copper and brass overlay, hand-created stoneware. Raker pottery enhanced with floral arrangements, and local art objects, all capturing the "earth" feeling.

The Back Hall and Stairway is a

mini-nook, designed by Nan Nesting of Nan Nesting Interiors. A "difficult to decorate" hallway closely coordinated with the adjoining kitchen is enhanced with the blending of craft blue ticking striped wallcovering, a China reed rug and mocha brown upholstered bench with bun seat. Focal points are the accented pieces, an antique screen and a woodtone etagere. The stairway leading up the second floor is decorated with the same craft wallcovering accented by a handpainted mirror.

Decorated with soft hues and clear lines, the kitchen is a unique and inviting place to work. The theme was accomplished by Gwen Hart, Lanny Turner and Marie Turner, of The Canister. The color scheme of parchment and blue is carried out through the wallcovering, soft blue cupboards and rich carpet. The popular butcher block style countertops and furniture point up the natural look of this decade and blend an old look with the new.

The windows are curtained in sheer brown echoing the earth tones. The "Pro-Chef" gourmet center is the highlight of the kitchen, with a butcher block supporting its own pot and pan rack filled with vivid blue cookware. Bright accessories and almond-colored appliances add a personal touch.

Entering the Downstairs Bath, designed as an everyday step-saver for the lady of the house, Marti Tanner, Connie Ford and Teri Gumbel of The Bath Boutique have created an eclectic blend of the ever-popular wicker furnishings softened by natural greenery and light which create a feeling of airiness.

As one proceeds through the downstairs, The Back Porch of yesteryear was a catch-all. However, a present-day Mom may use this porch to perform some of her homemaking duties. The clothing rack, the key and message center, the cupboard, and the school desk to occupy a little one, makes the area practical and versatile. Designers Maxine Cundiff, Wilma King and Marlene Clary of Farmer's Daughter Gift Shop, have created an air of nostalgia with the light color and Americana wallcovering furnishing an excellent background for this unique room.

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Community Affairs File

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Adjacent to the spacious living room and dining room, which were transformed into a decor adaptable to the tradition of the historical home by Pat Redenbarger and LaVerne Williams of MAB Paints, Inc., and Kathy Cunningham of Glidden Furniture. The theme of the living room centers on the hand-painted ceiling and border. Accenting the hexagonal window area will be a basket of springtime flowers.

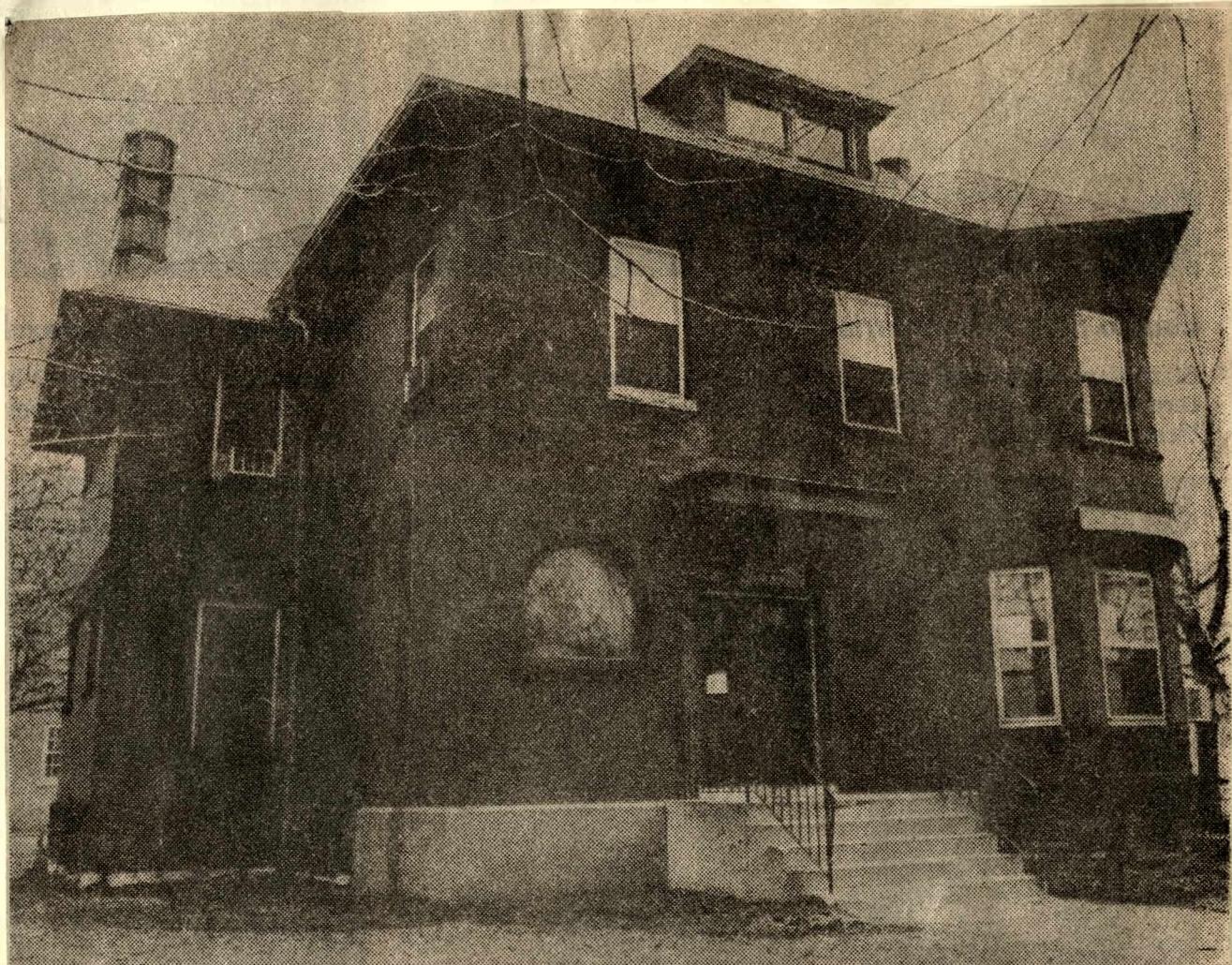
Subtle tones of eggshell cover the walls and floor providing a quiet background for the crescent Delft sofa. A handpainted Bombay chest is used as a focal point in the traditional room. Nature's foliage reflects itself in the massive antique full-length mirror.

Entering the dining room, the softness of eggshell is carried out with a rich decorative stripe wallcovering to intensify the warm tones of the natural wood. A large, ceramic fireplace welcomes visitors, as does the cloud blue table, set with fine crystal and gleaming china. This large room in the 19th century was used by large families and for elegant guest dinners, however informal lifestyle is featured now.

Leading from the dining room side door is the South Porch, a covered area designed by Kay Bauer of Kay's Interiors for the casual cookout with friends without the worry of rain, or a place for a morning cup of coffee.

Upstairs, the hall leading from the front main stairway and the back stairway, brings tour-goers another extended look of experts in design at their best, with new ideas of decor in the bedrooms, baths, artist's studio, dressing rooms, study and guest room, the creative room and a "teen niche."

The long upper hall, designed by Gail Schultz and Leslie Wilkinson of the League, offers a natural theme made for a heavily traveled area with the use of a natural color tone. Photographs and paintings extend personal accomplishments, utilizing the subtle wallspace for changing displays of an artist's special interests. Charlene Brand of Charlene Brand Interiors has changed the original use of a



### **Gay Nineties landmark becomes Designers Show House '79**

Formerly owned by the Cox-Schell and Blumberg families before becoming the property of the Visiting Nurses Association, the old red brick at 328 S. Fifth St. has been loaned to the Union Hospital Women's Service League for transformation into Designers Show House '79. Some 21 local designers have taken

on the challenge of redecorating the rooms and hallways of the 85-year-old house in keeping with the style of former years and yet showing ways to update and make an older home fit in with the lifestyle of the present day. It will be open to visitors from April 27 through May 13.

House of Photography

closet in the home to a Teen Niche, an out-of-the-way place where teen's can talk.

Jeff Slavens, designer from Kay's Interiors, will tackle the facelift of the back sunroom of years past, transforming it into a delightful and quiet room for the artist of the family. The Artist's Studio is bathed with the glow of nature's light, splashed with a touch of vibrant red, mink and white, producing creative energy for today's lifestyle.

Another room transformed into a new versatile living style is a bedroom, which has been designed into a Study-Guest Room by Ann R. Hartman and Elizabeth H. Krantz of Interior Arts Inc. The spicy colors used in the contrasting texture of burlap wallcovering to the soft cotton pattern covering the sofa for lounging or sleeping and the grouping of Louis XV chairs for reading, talking or dining combine with the interesting window treatment conducive to relaxing. A built-in shelf area for books, television and a collection of art and treasured possessions blend the old and new look creating an over-all comfort, convenience, ease and charm to this room of today.

An upstairs closet will have a fresh look from the decorating talents of Susan Frey and Helen Villa of The Honey Bee. This Creative Craft Center is a personal storage area for the crafter, assisting her in executing her projects such as yarn for needlepoint and flowers for her personal arranging — everything in its place and a place for everything.

Designers Janice McConkey and Suzanne Long of Janice McConkey Interiors have blended soft pastels for the Master Bedroom. Soft sheers and swags cover the windows and entire south wall. A Far Eastern charm is added by the light blue oriental rug. The queen-size bed with a canopy adorned with lace and decorator pillow shams lends the charm of luxury. Accenting the ceramic fireplace is a Queen Anne wing chair.

The connecting Master Bath has its decor to correspond with the bedroom by designers Marti Tanner, Connie Ford and Teri Gumbel of The Bath Boutique. Light and airy blue checks plus a floral reflects a breath of spring no matter what the season. Wooden accents add that nostalgic touch when used with the beautiful antique carved pedestal lavatory.

"We wager that you can't beat the excitement created when you enter the last chance parlor," comment

designers Terry Dunkin, Joe Darbutt and Robert Seidel of Sears on the game room they created. Game room it is, with the young at heart in mind, but something for everyone to enjoy. The games of chance are ages old, and by combining some of today's games they have tried to set aside an area where the family and their friends may relax and enjoy. The adjoining bath with its color selection gives an illusion of space, and a guest bath is a step saver for today's active family.

The Upper Gallery and Hall, designed by Jon Applegate of Homemakers, Inc. and Kay Burroughs of Artco Frame Shop and Gallery, is especially suited for an interesting and varied collection of fine furnishings. The framed pictures are perfectly suited to a busy hallway used for getting from one room to another, and a harsh corner has been

disguised by an artificial planting.

Adjacent to the front hall one steps into a Dressing Room created by designers Patricia D. Dragon and Melissa Meeks of Janice McConkey Interiors. Pastel colors and practicality are the key factor in decorating the narrow dressing room. Spot-lighting the wall storage enhances the focal point, while wicker furniture fits right in.

In the southwest corner of the upper level is the Sun Room, with a hexagonal tower area and delicate ceramic fireplace, all added features for the designer Lieba Yonks of The House of Interiors, Inc. to transform into an upstairs escape sitting room. The atmosphere of the room has been created with rattan and bamboo furniture. The blending of lime, yellow and gumdrop orange lifts spirits in a perfect room for relaxation.

#### The Small Bedroom with adjoining

Dressing Room has been renovated by designers Nancy E. Watson, Mary Fuller and Kathy Dersch of N.E.W. Interiors and Homemakers. The two rooms are versatile for the young adult at home or the special guests. The designers have set the mood with floral stripe wallcovering and fabric in colors of yellow, beige and a soft touch of blue. The luxurious carpet sets the scene for the pecan furniture slightly reminiscent of Country French. Interesting picture groupings add a touch of individuality.

Not only has the inside of the house been redecorated, but the grounds will have a fresh "cared-for" look. Visitors may take a leisurely stroll through the garden and imagine a family and friends enjoying the backyard designed by Gregory Byers and Harold Timmer of Bunch Nurseries.

This retreat offers both room to enjoy a large gathering as well as a small area in which to relax with friends. From both entries, a fountain is in view. Around the fountain, benches are provided to accommodate family and friends.

Directly off the central area is a small area overlooking a courtyard screening off any undesirable view. Bulbs, flowers and interesting shrubs transform it into an garden for every season.

The '79 Designers Show House will be a spring event for the city of Terre Haute, with a Champagne Reception scheduled for April 27, for patrons and designers, as well as persons and businesses rendering services to the unique benefit. The Show House will open to the public April 29 and continue through May 13.

Weekday hours are noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. General admission for adults will be charged, with a minimal price for children ages 6-12, and under six years, free of admission. Special group tour rates for eight or more persons are available with advance reservations, made by calling Mrs. Robert Rourke, 232-7200. Tickets may be obtained at the door, the gift shop at Union Hospital West, and from any member of the League, as well as House Interiors, The Canister, and Kasameyer Glass.

Proceeds from the '79 Show House will be donated to Union Hospital for an Acute Kidney Dialysis Unit. The public is urged to participate and enjoy this benefit.

# What Women are Doing

Historic Houses (TH)

TS JAN 21 1979

## Designer's Show House planned for spring '79

THE FORMER Cox-Schell-Blumberg residence will soon have a look of "excellence in design" illustrated by 21 prominent designers from the Terre Haute and surrounding area. The decorating and furnishing of the Victorian home, built for Robert S. Cox in 1894, is an expense borne by the designers and firms which lend furniture, rugs, art objects, paint, wallpaper and working hands.

The Women's Service League of Union Hospital founded the fund-raising project in Terre Haute in 1972, and its overwhelming acceptance over the past years has enabled the League to purchase equipment for the OB-GYN Department, Coronary Care Department, and furnishings for the new Phase II addition.

However, the proceeds from the '79 Show House is designated for the purchase of an Acute Kidney Dialysis Unit. Months of extensive planning began in September, following the generous donation of the home, which is presently owned by the Visiting Nurses Association.

General co-chairmen of the Show House project are Mrs. Richard Auer and Mrs. Arnold Kosofsky. The steering committee chairmen planning the combined finalizing work to promote a successful '79 Show House includes Mrs. Malcolm Wright, finance chairman; Mrs. Ed Shewecker, co-chairman; Mrs. Frank Enderle, secretary. Mrs. Fred Kramer, co-chairman; Mrs. Henry Bopp Sr., co-chairman house operation, Mrs. Wilbur Elrod, co-chairman; Mrs. James Thompson, grand opening chairman, Mrs. Charles Korzinek, sneak preview chairman, Mrs. Robert Rourke, co-chairman; Mrs. Mark McCullough, hostess and sitters chairman, Mrs. John Terhorst, co-chairman; Mrs. John C. Page, telephone chairman, with Mrs. Tracy Page, co-chairman.

Also, Mrs. James Bopp, co-decorating chairman; Mrs. Richard Comer, designers contacts; Mrs. Gerald Redicks, publicity chairman, Mrs. O.W. Pendergast, co-chairman; Mrs. Edwin Loeser, program chairman, Mrs. Dan Dietrich, co-chairman; Mrs. Darrell Everhart, grounds chairman; Mrs. Richard Comer, inventory chairman, Mrs. Don Pendergast, co-chairman.

And, Mrs. Carl Forsyth, patron chairman, Mrs. Burton Scherb, co-chairman; Mrs. David Bailey, ticket chairman, Mrs. Iraadj Noroozi, co-chairman; Mrs. Dennis Michael, prizes chairman, Mrs. Greg Adams, co-chairman; Mrs. Robert Rourke, reservations and tours chairman, and Mrs. John Hill, co-chairman.

Show House program chairman, Mrs. Edwin Loeser, and Mrs. Dan Dietrich, co-chairman, with their committee which includes Mrs. Kenneth Williams, art work; Mrs. Micheal Action and Mrs. Byron Wheeler Jr., layout planning, are proceeding toward completion of the programs. Members of the Show House committees have been canvassing business firms desiring to participate in the community endeavor through advertising.

The program book will be given to all visitors touring the refurbished home, which will be open to the public April 29 through May 13.

Wanna Artis and Worthy Patron Dean Boyd presiding.

Grand Adah Dorothy Keiser will present her lecture. Past Star Points will be honored. Serving on the refreshment committee will be Ann Kirby, chairman, Lenor Stewart, Loreen Robson, Olive Butts, Luella Short and Geraldine Benton.

(true)

Community Affairs File

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### ***Steering Committee plans Designer's Show House***

Members of the Union Hospital Women's Service League serving on the Steering Committee for the upcoming Designer's Show House '79 are shown at a recent planning session. Front row, from bottom, are Janet Auer, Anita Loeser, Janet Korzinek and Olive Terhorst. Back row, Jane Kosofsky, Marian Forsyth, Jan Michaels, Marilois McCullough, Gail Schultz and Kay Enderle.

House of Photography

TH APR 8 1979

THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1979 E-7

*Historic House 183 (T H)*

# Show House reviews 85-year history

Victorian houses were particularly expressive of the rising American aspirations of the 19th century, and the beautiful old home at 328 S. Fifth St., built by Robert S. Cox and his wife in 1894, is an excellent example.

Broad, terra cotta, sculptured gables grace the old home, as well as two hexagonal towers well integrated into a pleasing over-all massing of architecture, a fine example of native Americana.

On the interior adjacent to a large foyer, the great staircase and landing, the mellow glow from the stained glass windows, the carved stair grille, curved window well, delicate, beveled-glass window and handsome red ceramic tile fireplace, all create an atmosphere of a bygone era.

Four additional fireplaces of tile and ceramic are found on the first and second floors of the home. The tower areas incorporated into the living room and morning room are added features of interest.

Robert S. Cox's ancestors were noted, successful, pioneer businessmen of Vigo County. His father, a native of Zanesville, Ohio, born in 1833, came to Terre Haute in 1855 to

join his father in the wholesale grocery business known as R. S. Cox & Son. Following the grandfather's death in 1864, his father continued the business, merging with Herman Hulman under the name of Hulman & Cox. He became part owner of the Terre Haute Distillery and owned interest in the Terre Haute Car Works.

In 1855, he married Hannah F. Schell of Cincinnati. One of their three children was Robert S. Cox, born in 1858. Reared in Terre Haute, he attended city schools and graduated from the Polytechnic School of Arts at Zurich, Switzerland in 1880. He then returned to Terre Haute to work with his father, President of the Terre Haute Car Works.

Following the death of his father, he was elected superintendent of the company in 1886.

The next year, Robert S. Cox married Frank Day of Brazil, Ind., who was born in 1862 in Chillicothe, Ohio. They built the handsome home on the site where it now stands in 1894.

However, in 1897, Mr. Cox was offered a position with the American Car & Foundry Co. of Buffalo and left

Terre Haute. In a short time Cox became President of the Buffalo Copper Foundry Co. His sudden death occurred in 1911.

In 1900, Dr. and Mrs. Walker A. Schell purchased the home from Mrs. Cox and resided there until 1907 when they moved into their new home at 615 S. Sixth St. Dr. Schell was born in 1850 and reared in Spencer, Ind. Graduated from DePauw University, his medical education was extensive, including Miami Ohio Medical School and University of Michigan. He practiced medicine in Berlin, Vienna and Munich hospitals for two years, returning to Terre Haute to become one of the oldest and most prominent physicians here for 25 years, until his death in 1908.

He was President of the Indiana Medical Society and Vigo County Medical Society, and a standing delegate of the National Association of American Medical Society. His widow continued to live in their home for many years.

However, in 1916 Mrs. Schell sold the South Fifth Street home to Max and Theresa (Ravitch) Blumberg.

Continued On Page E-12, Col. 1.

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## show house

Continued From Page E-7.

Max Blumberg was born in Russia, and emigrated to the United States in 1887 as a jeweler. He established himself in Terre Haute soon after his arrival and sent for his wife in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Blumberg followed his trade for a time, but soon became interested in real estate and the personal loan business. He founded the Security Loan Company, at one time the largest in the Midwest, at 17 S. Fourth St. His home office was located in the Star Building. Opening and purchasing other loan businesses over the years in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Ohio, he remained an active businessman until his death.

Mrs. Blumberg, one of the foremost women interested in the Public Health Nursing Association through-

out her lifetime, was one of the founders and patrons of that organization when it was established in Terre Haute. She was also a founder and supported of the Theresa Blumberg Center for Girls in the north part of Terre Haute.

Benjamin Blumberg, the son of Max and Theresa, was born in Terre Haute April 22, 1889. After attending city schools and DePauw University, he was graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1913 with the degree of J.D. Later he joined his father's organization, remaining active until the merger with Seaboard Finance Company in 1957.

In civic and philanthropic matters his associations were extensive in this area. He was instrumental in Indiana becoming one of the first states to develop the Blue Cross Plan. His interest in higher education caused him to financially aid institutions such as DePauw University,

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Indiana State University. He was a sponsor of the Katherine Hamilton Mental Health Center and a supporter of Union Hospital. His organizational work in religious institutions is well known in Terre Haute.

Benjamin Blumberg married Fannie Burghheim in 1916, and four children were born, a son and three daughters. Mrs. Blumberg was a noted writer of children's books, a philanthropist and talented artist in oils.

A few years after the death of Fannie Blumberg, Ben married Dr. Elizabeth Foster, a native of Columbus, Ohio, an artist and emeritus professor at ISU, who is prominently known for her civic, educational and government interests.

In December, 1940, following the death of his parents, Blumberg made a splendid gift of the Blumberg home and grounds to the Public Health

Nursing Association, which was named in memory of his mother as the Theresa Ravitch Blumberg Health Center. Following improvements to make the structure adequate for the needs of the Association, they moved in March from their original home at 428 N. Ninth St.

In 1956 the home was transferred to the present owners, the Visiting Nurses Association. It is through the generosity of the Association that the Women's Service League of Union Hospital owes substantial gratitude for the use of this property as the outstanding '79 Show House presentation. The home will take on a new look once again, and will be open to the public April 29 through May 13.

Mrs. Richard Auer and Mrs. Arnold Kosofsky, general co-chairmen, specify that all proceeds will be used for the purchase of an Acute Kidney Dialysis Unit for Union Hospital. The public is urged to participate.

**COX-SCHELL-BLUMBERG-VNA-  
MILLER & WHITE HOUSE  
328 S. Fifth Street • 1894**

Graced by broad terra cotta sculptured gables, two hexagon towers, ceramic tile fireplaces, and stained and leaded glass, this Farrington's Grove home is a fine example of Victorian-American architecture.

The home was built in 1894 by successful businessman Robert S. Cox and his wife, and was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Walker A. Schell after the Coxes moved to Buffalo. Dr. Schell, for 25 years a prominent area physician, made this his home for seven years.

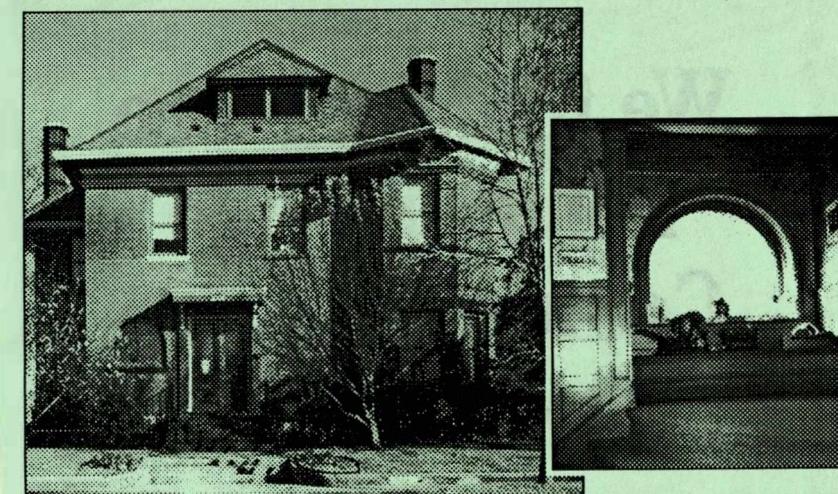
Max and Theresa Blumberg purchased the home from Mrs. Schell in 1916 and made it their family home until Mr. Blumberg's death in 1934. Mr. Blumberg was the founder of Security Loan Company.

The Blumbergs' only child Benjamin and his wife Fannie presented the family residence to the Public Health Nursing Association (now Visiting Nurse Association of the Wabash Valley, Inc.) in memory of his mother, a founder and patron of the Association.

For many years the community knew the building as the home of the Public Health Nursing Association, later the VNA. The organization sponsored clinics and provided nursing care in the home. In 1979 the Women's Service League of Union Hospital chose the home for its Designers Show House.

In 1986 VNA's Board of Directors sold the building to Brian and Jane Miller and Fred and Nancy Nation, and they converted it to house their advertising agency, Graphic Edition,

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR Dec 6, 1998



*The asymmetrical qualities but restrained details of this house place it at the end of the Queen Anne period of Victorian architecture. The shallow brackets (modillions) under the eaves foreshadow a return to classically inspired architecture. The interior features were influenced by Victorian designer Charles Eastlake and include art glass windows, oriental motifs on door knobs and hinges, and an Inglenook located on the stair landing. Some areas of the house, particularly upstairs, were remodeled to accommodate the Visiting Nurse Association. Bedrooms and the dining room were divided to create offices. Currently houses the Miller & White advertising agency.*

Inc. In 1988 the Nations sold their interest in the home to the Millers. The name of the agency was changed to Miller & White when Bill White became a partner.

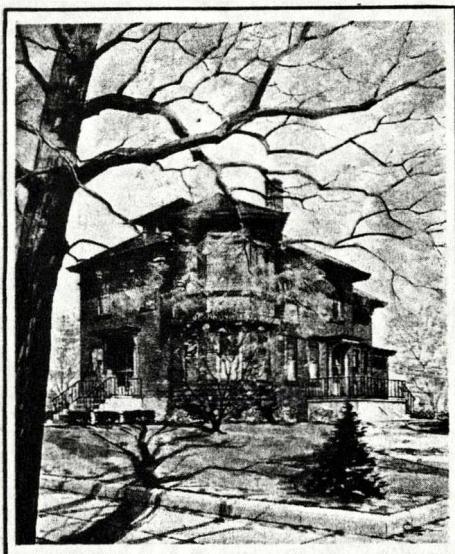
The building itself has undergone many changes over the years. Photos show a large front porch on the west side and a porte-cochere on the south side, both of which were removed at an unknown date.

On the first floor, the room with the cherry woodwork, which was once the dining room, was divided into an office and hall in the 1940s. The large mirror in the conference room is not the original, but replaced a fireplace, probably early in the century. The kitchen has seen several changes as well.

On the second floor, the three small offices on the right at the top of the stairs were created by the VNA from a large bedroom that spanned the west side of the house. Graphic Edition created a large art room by removing half the wall between the bedrooms on the building's south side. Most recently, the back porch was converted to a guest bathroom and the first and second floors received new paint and carpet.

After more than a century gracing the corner of Fifth and Swan, the home today provides an efficient and warm working environment for the Miller & White agency. The agency's owners remain dedicated to preserving the home's status as one of Terre Haute's outstanding historical landmarks. ■

1-6-98



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REFERENCE

COX - SCHELL - BLUMBERG - VNA

The Cox-Schell-Blumberg-VNA home is one of Terre Haute's outstanding historical landmarks. Graced by broad terra-cotta sculptured gables, two hexagon towers, ceramic-tile fireplaces, plus stained and leaded glass, the building is a fine example of Victorian American architecture. The home was built in 1894 by a successful businessman, Robert S. Cox and his wife. The home was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Walker A. Schell, after the Cox's move to Buffalo. Dr. Schell, a prominent physician in the area for twenty-five years, made his home at 328 South Fifth Street for seven years. Max and Theresa Blumberg purchased the home from Mrs. Schell in 1916 and it became their family home until Mr. Blumberg's death in 1934. Mr. Blumberg was the founder of Security Loan Company. Their only child, Benjamin, married Fannie Bergheim in 1916. Benjamin presented the family residence to the Public Health Nursing Association (now Visiting Nurse Association of the Wabash Valley, Inc.) in 1939 in memory of his mother, Theresa. Theresa Ravitch Blumberg had been a founder and patron of the Association.

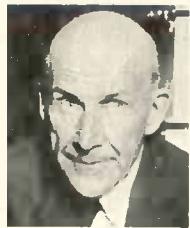
The Public Health Nursing Association, which was incorporated October 20, 1916, was the fourth such organization formed in Indiana. The Association sponsored clinics and provided nursing care in the home. The Association was first located in the 100 block on North Seventh Street from where it moved to the old Hemmingway House. The third move was made to the Friendly Inn. Recognizing the need for larger quarters in order to carry out a more extensive prevention program, the office relocated to the Tribune Building in 1927. The Board of Directors purchased property at 418 North Ninth Street in 1928. The organization has been housed at 328 South Fifth Street since 1939.

The Women's Service League of Union Hospital chose VNA's building for their 1979 Designer's Show House. The resulting renovation provided the Association with a beautiful, much improved facility. During the renovation period the Association was housed at Union Hospital. Additional remodeling took place in 1984.

VNA's Board of Directors sold the building to Brian Miller and Fred Nation of Graphic Edition in 1986, at which time the Association relocated to the Medical Science Building at 615 Eighth Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Today, the building is leased by its current owners,  
Brian and Jane Miller, to Miller & White Advertising, Inc. 12/6/98

# The Debs Home A National Historic Landmark



Vigo County Public Library

General Info. File

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■ Throngs of working people and their families, each year, visit the home of the late Kate and Eugene V. Debs in Terre Haute, Ind. The house, built in 1890, stands as a monument in memory of one of the most outstanding trade union leaders in American history. It stands today as a National Historic Landmark designated in 1966 by the U. S. Department of the

Interior.

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation, of which Amalgamated Secretary-Treasurer Patrick E. Gorman is president, will observe this year the 47th anniversary of Debs' death. He was born on Nov. 5, 1855 and died on Oct. 20, 1926. The Foundation which purchased and restored the Debs home in 1962 was instrumental in achieving national landmark status of the home.

The Debs home is filled with nostalgia of a by-gone era. It was here where Eugene Debs wrote many articles as editor of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen magazine of which he had also served as Grand Secretary. It was here where he set plans to organize the first industrial union,

the American Railway Union, established in 1893. It was here where Debs contemplated and decided to run as a candidate of the Socialist Party for President of the United States. It was here where he developed ideas to write many articles advocating justice and equality for those who are underprivileged and oppressed as associate editor of the Appeal to Reason. And it was here where many meetings were held on behalf of the cause of unionism and reforms in the community.

The home stands as a symbol of his creed:

"While there is a lower class, I am in it; While there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."



**T**he Willy Pogany mural, for over 50 years in the auditorium of the Rand School of Social Sciences, New York City, is now located at head of upstairs hall in Debs home.

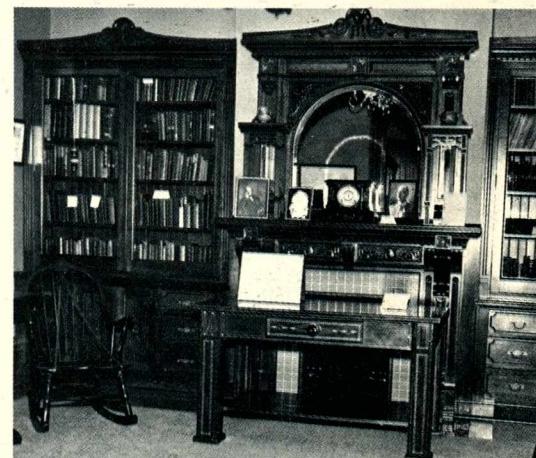


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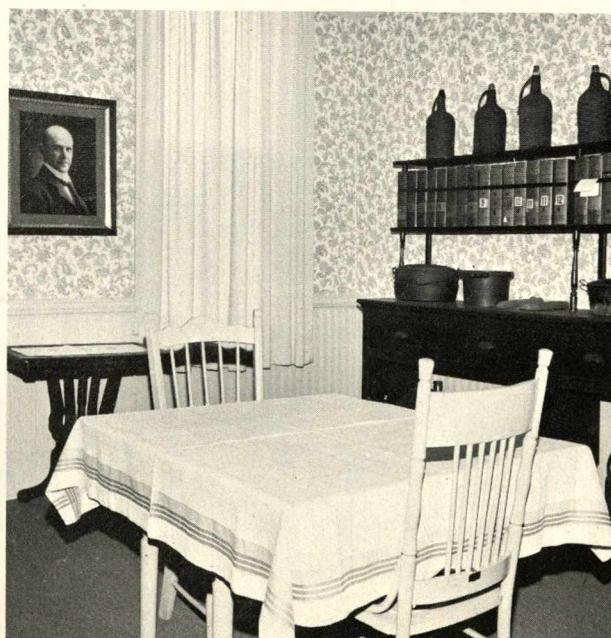
Beautifully appointed dining room was often turned into a study by Eugene Debs as added room was always required for his work.

**B**

ookcases, fireplace, and mantel in library. The Debs library is filled with periodicals bearing his writings as well as many books significant to labor and social history.

**A**

n alcove off the living room is now known as the John L. Lewis Room. Artifacts and documents are displayed in the room.

**D**

ebs kitchen now known as the Indiana AFL-CIO Room.

**T**

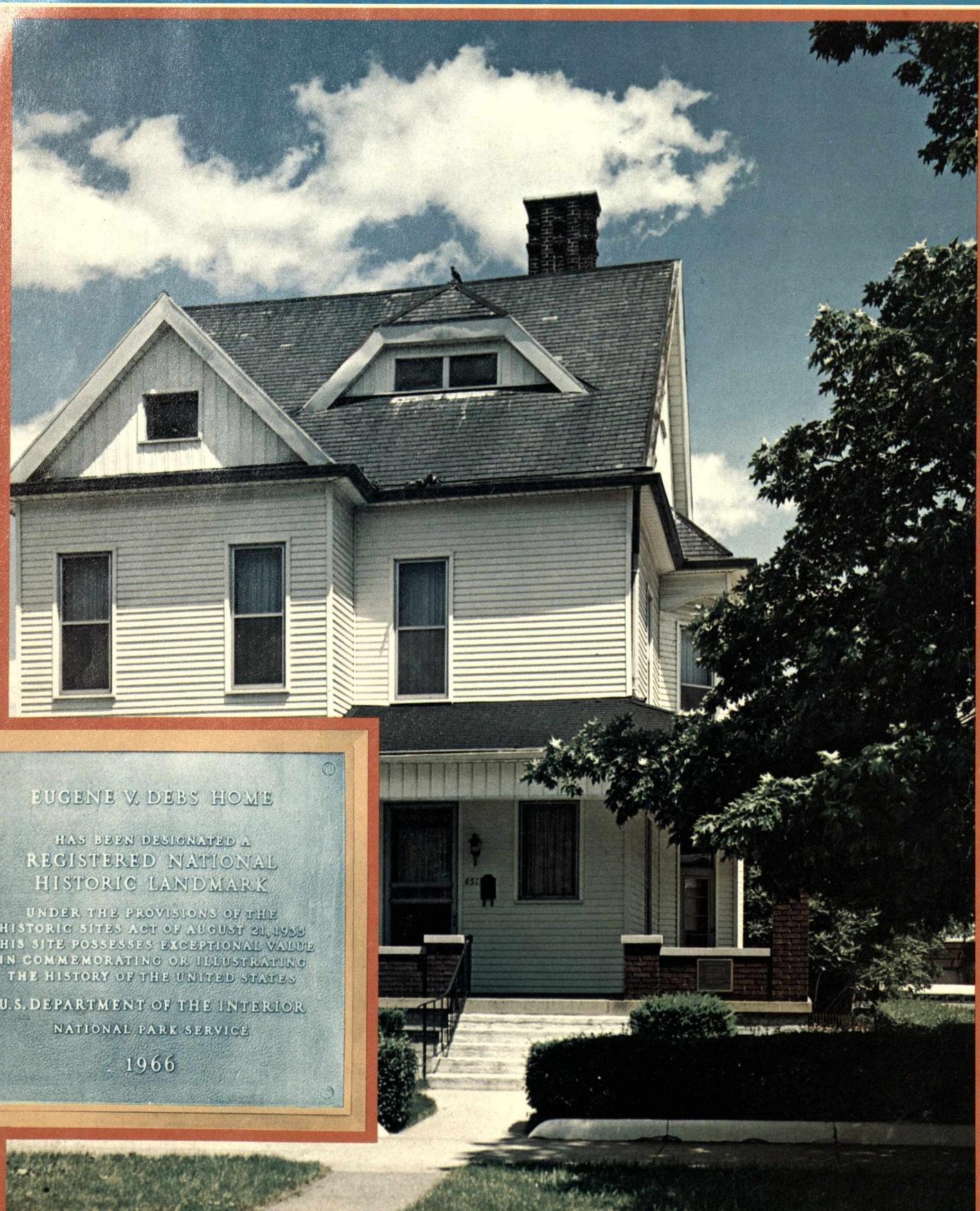
he living room as seen from the entrance hall.

**F**

urniture from his last office now stands in the Debs bedroom.

# The BUTCHER WORKMAN

October, 1973



## EUGENE V. DEBS HOME

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A  
REGISTERED NATIONAL  
HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
HISTORIC SITES ACT OF AUGUST 21, 1935  
THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE  
IN COMMEMORATING OR ILLUSTRATING  
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1966

Friday, October 6, 1972

THE INDIANA STATESMAN

# past national politician from Terre Haute

BY GEORGE HAWKINS

Terre Haute has contributed few politicians to the national scene, but Eugene Victor Debs (also Debbs) is a stand-out in American annals.

Born on November 5, 1855 in this town, young Debs dropped out of school at 14 to become a member of the Paint Shop for the Terre Haute, Indianapolis, and Richmond Railroad. In 1875 he got his first taste of union life, joining the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. Quickly working up the organized labor ladder, he became the first secretary of Terre Haute local.

About this time, Debs first entered the political arena as a city clerk. In 1884, he graduated to the Indiana state legislature serving one term. He gradually became disillusioned with the two major parties (he had been a Democrat), and retired to become the editor of a small newspaper, the "Appeal to Reason". Propagating socialist doctrine, the paper was instrumental in Debs' assumption of leadership of the American socialist movement.

In 1897, he helped organize the Social Democracy of America, expanding the following year into the Social Democratic Party of America. It was with this party that Debs made his first attempt at the Presidency in 1900.

After a dispute with the utopian elements of the new party, Debs and his followers split off and formed the Socialist Party. He ran for President on this ticket in 1904, 1908, and 1912, each time polling more votes, until in 1912,

the Socialist total was over 800,000; this being before women's suffrage, and taking into account the increase in population, the figure today would near 3,000,000.

He served a brief jail sentence in 1895 for leading an illegal railroad strike. Interestingly, the forerunner of the American Communist Party (although he never claimed membership in that party; indeed, he at times attacked the younger party's methods) was imprisoned at Woodstock Jail.

But in 1918, he was charged with a more serious crime: violation of the espionage Act. In a speech at Canton, Ohio, Debs spoke strongly against involvement in the First World War. Despite an impassioned plea to the jury (he was considered one of the foremost orators of his day), he was sentenced to ten years.

During this term, he was again nominated for President by the Socialists. Ironically, in this election, he totalled some 919,000 votes. Although it is agreed that some of this was a protest vote, and not an endorsement of the Socialist doctrines, this is still the highest total the party ever achieved.

Shortly after his election Harding commuted Debs' sentence, but internal strife and the emergence of the Communist Party had torn the Socialists apart. From a peak of 115,000 members in 1912, it fell to only 11,000 ten years later.

Debs died in October, 1926.



by Jim Kendrix

## DEB'S HOME

having seen the party and cause to which he devoted his life fall to pieces. Nevertheless, one biographer has noted, "The lifework of Debs, as the foremost agitator for socialism we have ever had, as the man of principle who always stood at his post in the class struggle in times of danger and difficulty, will always remain a treasured heritage of the revolutionary worker."

At present, the Eugene Debs home, located across from Fairbanks Hall on N.E. 8th St., is open to the public four days a week, Tuesday through Friday, from 1-5p.m.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# Cook's Tour Features Deb's House

~~Is AUG 22 1976~~

As the Bicentennial year draws to a close, it is most fitting that one of the homes on the Woman's Department Club Cook's Tour be a national historic landmark. Such is the Eugene V. Debs home at 451 N. 8th St., built in 1890.

Marguerite Debs Cooper, the daughter of Theodore and neice of Eugene, has directed the restoration of the home. All furniture and exhibits found in the home have either belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Debs, his mother and father, Theodore, or others who were close to him in his lifetime.

One should pay particular attention to the elegant fireplaces with hand carved mantles, of which there are seven in all; and to the beautiful oak woodwork and flooring.

Visitors entering the large foyer will notice the massive oak stairway and ballustrade. Here also is Mrs. Debs writing desk and one of the fireplaces. Access to the living rooms and dining room is also off this area.

Living room furniture consists of a four piece Victorian suite with hand carved trim, hand carved teakwood tables, two with marble tops, and a unique Civil War era loveseat.

From here we enter the library, where the fireplace is flanked by huge, matching built-in bookcases. Commanding attention in this room is the library table with its 34,500 pieces of inlaid woods.

The dining room is entered through a large cased opening with sliding wooden doors. Here is probably one of the most interesting fireplaces with its cobalt blue tile and unusual built in china cabinet over the Honduras mahogany mantle. Lovely china and glassware may be seen here. There is a mahogany drop leaf table on which sets a lamp made by Handle, Tiffany's assistant. The large dining table and six chairs with their original black

leather upholstery and matching ornate buffet add to the decor.

On this floor is also the tradesmen's entrance leading directly into the kitchen, where we see the old well-worn table, Debs' high chair which is 125 years old, his mother's lapboard, and other heirlooms. An apothecary counter covers one wall. It is said that Mr. Debs used to stand and write here. Now it is used to show old cooking utensils, and demijohns, in which imported wines were shipped to his father's grocery.

As visitors climb the stairs to the upper level, note the Willy Pogany mural on the wall, which for 50 years was in the auditorium of the Rand School for Social Sciences in New York City. There are four rooms, the bath, and linen room on this floor.

The front guest bedroom is named the James Whitcomb Riley Room, as Mr. Riley was a friend and guest in the house. Antique furnishings include a secretary and Victorian period vanity dresser with full length mirror.

Debs' study with a massive desk occupies another room. His bedroom is furnished with furniture from his last office. It was here in 1923 that Ned Bush Sr., and two other members of the Wiley debate team interviewed Mr. Debs for two hours, little realizing he would one day be curator of and residing in the home.

The John L. Lewis room completes the upstairs tour.

Two tours and lectures will personally be directed by Mr. Bush, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the other from 2 to 3 p.m. on the day of the tour, Friday, Sept. 17.

There is much to see in this gracious and historical home, for in addition to furnishings, are display cases filled with their interesting contents.

A lovely garden in the rear of the home with its center fountain is worth attention. There will be ample parking for tour participants.

To stretch a small amount of ham, dice it and add it to scrambled eggs.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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*over*

Ts AUG 22 1976



ELEGANT FIREPLACE, located in the library of the Eugene V. Debs home, 451 N. 8th St., is flanked by huge, matching built-in bookcases. Commanding attention in this room is the library table with its 34,500 pieces of inlaid woods. The Debs home, built in 1890, is one of the featured homes on this year's Cooks Tour sponsored by the Woman's Department Club. The tour will be conducted Friday, Sept. 17.

Photo by House of Photography

Community Affairs File

Rotogravure Section.

*Debs of Eugene V.  
debs-math*

The Tribune-Star, Terre Haute, Ind.

DEBS HOUSE

The Eugene Victor Debs house at 451 North 8th Street in Terre Haute was built in 1890 and occupied by Debs and his wife. It has now been handsomely restored—interiorly to its original appearance, exteriorly with some changes made necessary by virtue of the vicissitudes of time and use.

The Debs house, typical of a type popular throughout the second half of the 19th century, is informally and flexibly planned for convenient living. The octagonal bay on the south side and the projecting gabled arms both in front and at the rear are evidence of the functional organization of interior spaces. This interest dictates the irregularity of the cornice line which in turn is echoed in the complex roofing pattern. Truth and logic of construction are further emphasized by the vertical and horizontal boards across the surface of the house and reflect the basic structural character of its wooden frame. Indeed, but for the foundation and the chimneys, the entire house is built of wood. This vernacular in the construction of wooden houses is appropriately referred to as the "stick-style."

In the Debs house, the only ostentatious element was the original veranda, with its wooden posts and railings and its spindle canopy (see insert above), all fashioned by the lathe and scroll saw. This veranda was removed in 1917 and replaced by the present brick and concrete porch. However, one fragment of the design remains around the small hooded rear door on the south side adjacent to the octagonal bay.

Over and above its architectural importance, the Debs House is significant as the home of Terre Haute born Eugene Victor Debs, heroic organizer of the first Industrial Union in the United States. Debs died in 1926. Forty years later, in 1966, the Debs home was proclaimed a National Historic Landmark of the National Park system, U.S. Department of Interior.

NOTE: The summer series on Terre Haute architecture closes with this review of the Debs House, particularly fitting for the Labor Day weekend. On Wednesday, at noon, the Swope Art Gallery will reopen for the fall season. Beginning next Sunday, the regular Art Object of the Week series will be resumed.

Ts SEP 3 1972



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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

**Wake-up call**

A veteran newswoman whose credits include three years as city editor of The Tribune-Star, Kaufman now writes daily on this page about life and those who live it in the Wabash Valley.

**By Susan J. Kaufman**  
*Tribune-Star staff columnist*

# Debs home among city's treasures

*"When I want to understand what is happening today or try to decide what will happen tomorrow, I look back."*

— Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

This city has always struck me as being a treasure house of history. There's still a faint scent of the drama, tension and excitement of social and political upheaval that wafts on the soft breeze of a hot summer's night along the banks of the Wabash.

What has always fascinated me is that we tend not to perceive this quality about our town. We seem reluctant to pump ourselves up about the treasures we possess.

One of those treasures is the legacy of Eugene V. Debs, railroad union organizer and charismatic leader of the Socialist Party.

Socialism is not a popular political philosophy today and perhaps we tend to drift from developing a pride in the Debs heritage because of that.

Maybe that's why the Debs House at Eighth and Sycamore streets, though a National Historic Site, sits so silently. Few local people take the time to visit.

**I**t took me six years to visit there, yet when I approached the front door and saw the tarnished brass knocker with the scroll, "E.V. Debs," etched on it, I felt a shiver through my body.

Debs was someone I'd heard about since I was a youngster. My father, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, always spoke of him with a certain reverence.

"If it hadn't been for Eugene Debs, I wouldn't be making the money I'm making and you wouldn't be going to college," he'd remind me from time to time.

Stepping inside the home is akin to walking through a time warp. Period pieces, antiques, shelves of books which Debs and his brother Theodore must have pored over in developing their particular economic, social and political philosophies sit like silent sentinels to an era of activism gone by.

Autographed copies of first-edition books by Upton Sinclair, Sinclair Lewis and Emma Goldman lie on tables throughout the elegance of the three-story mansion.

Everywhere there are pictures and artifacts, big stories and not-so-big stories told from lips now silenced and pens now stilled. Letters from Carl Sandburg, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, John L. Lewis, Clarence Darrow lie in brittle plastic cases to be read by any who care to look.

**U**p on the third floor the vibrant murals of Indiana State University art professor John Laska virtually leap off the dormer walls, accosting the viewer with the fiery, poignant story of the man from Terre Haute who five times ran for the U.S. presidency and served 10 years in prison for making an anti-war speech that was adjudged to be in violation of the war-time espionage law.

Whether you approach the home of Eugene Debs from the political right, the left or the middle is irrelevant.

But to fail to approach it and not to spend time there is a mistake. On the inside of the now aluminum, white-sided walls lies a significant segment of American history.

Debs knew the importance of casting a look to the past: "When great changes occur in history, when great principles are involved, as a rule the majority are wrong," he once entoned.

**B**ecause of Eugene Debs, many of the great figures of history have addressed throngs in Terre Haute. As president of the Occidental Literary Club, he brought guest lecturers to town, among them orator Robert Ingersoll, an exponent of agnosticism, and suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

Even after his death the parade of significant men and women continues to pour into our city annually for the Eugene V. Debs Award dinner.

Labor leaders John L. Lewis and Walter Reuther are among the 13 Americans to receive the Debs award since 1965. Dorothy Day, social activist and publisher of The Catholic Worker; Jesse Jackson, civil-rights leader and U.S. presidential candidate; Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and educator, are among them.

Preservation of this rich heritage is not accomplished cheaply, however, nor without problems. And that's a topic you'll learn more about in tomorrow's column.

*Debs*

HISTORIC HOUSES - (WV,

# Preservation of Debs Home no simple task,

Ts JUL 5 1985



Tribune-Star/Sue Kaufman

**Not easy:** Hopple takes look at handful of historic articles.

It's pretty easy to say, "Oh, we must preserve that building." But those involved in the complexities of preservation work know that historic preservation is not a simple task.

Take the Eugene V. Debs Foundation's struggle to keep the Debs Home and Memorial Garden at 451 N. Eighth St. a viable national facility.

It takes \$1,000 a month just to maintain the home of the famed American labor organizer and socialist political leader.

Curator Daryl Hopple of Evansville, an Indiana State University graduate student in history, produced some startling information for foundation members recently.

Look at the list of things the foundation must be concerned with:

- Cracks in the ceiling of Eugene Debs' bedroom and kitchen.
- Water damage around the Debs awards area.
- Gutter leaks have damaged the carpet in the apartment living room.
- Winter damage to sidewalks in the garden.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

# curator relates

## Wake-up call



A veteran newswoman whose credits include three years as city editor of The Tribune-Star, Kaufman now writes daily on this page about life and those who live it in the Wabash Valley.

By Susan J. Kaufman  
*Tribune-Star staff columnist*

- The fountain needs to be converted to a planter for flowers.
  - The garden, especially the hedge, needs extensive care.
  - The porch railing on the south side is badly deteriorated.
  - The chimney in Katherine Debs's bedroom has settled, causing problems with wallpaper.
- Those are just physical problems, but

look at the problems regarding preservation work:

● Photographs are being damaged by improper storage and extremes of temperature and humidity and are un-indexed. Acid-free envelopes (about \$1.50 each) are needed for storage of the brittle and rare photographs.

● Manuscripts, newspapers, pamphlets and archival materials need similar treatment.

● Books are not properly indexed in the card catalog and are unusable by researchers. The extreme weight of books may be damaging the second floor.

● Museum items have not been catalogued in more than five years, thus making it impossible to know what the foundation owns, who donated it and its relation to Debs or labor history.

● Recently acquired dining-room furniture is in poor condition due to age, excessive polishing and effects of salt air and must be professionally restored.

Hopple also knows that his tenure as a graduate student is limited and the

museum can only look to a continued high turnover of curators, unless money can be found to hire a full-time person.

The Debs Home is open for tours from 2 to 5 p.m. daily except Friday. It attracts visitors and researchers from across the country and abroad.

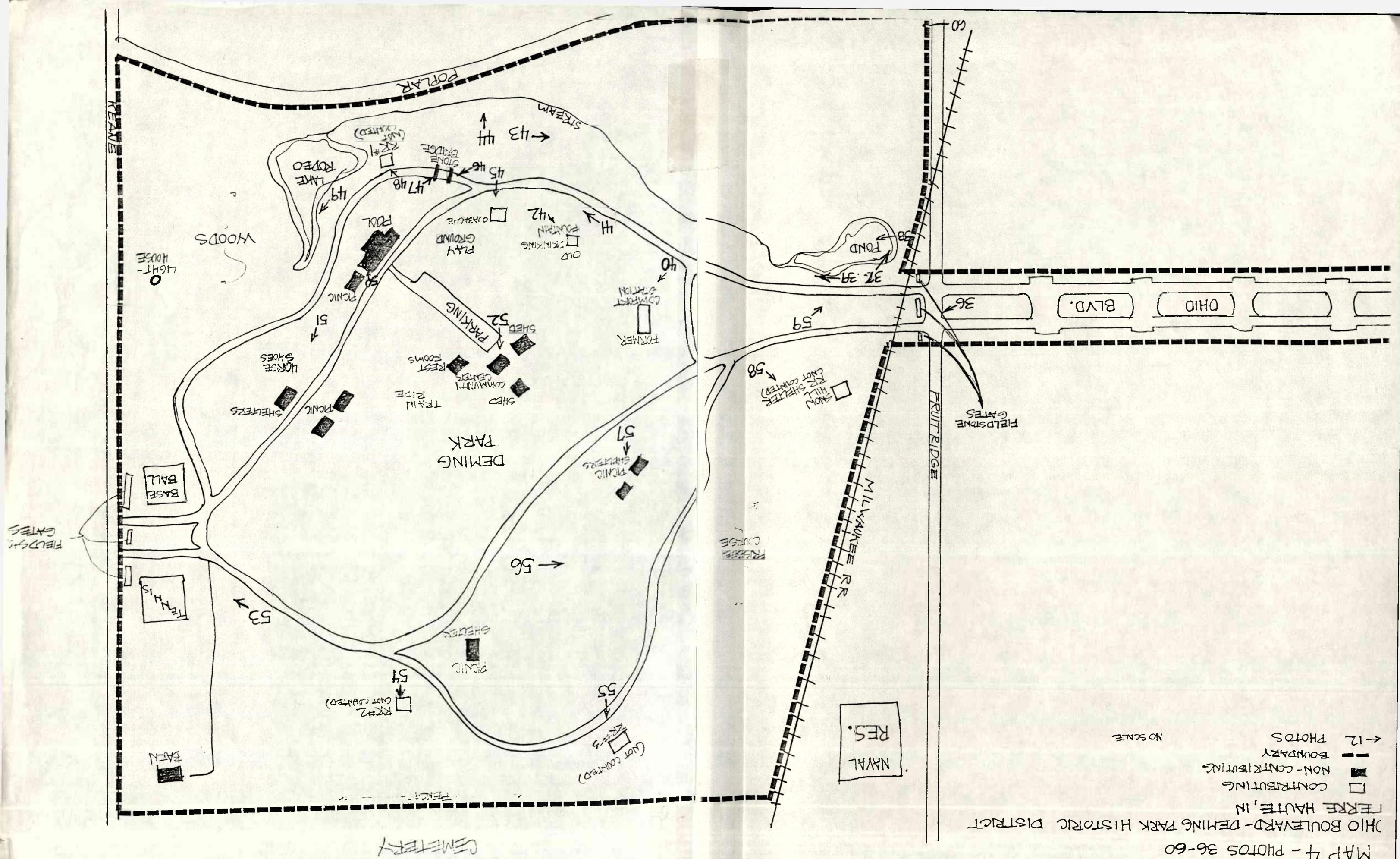
With foundation membership at \$10 a year, and many of the 650 memberships consisting of paid-up lifetime members, income for the foundation is not great.

While the annual Debs dinner has enjoyed tremendous success, last year's event netted just \$979.

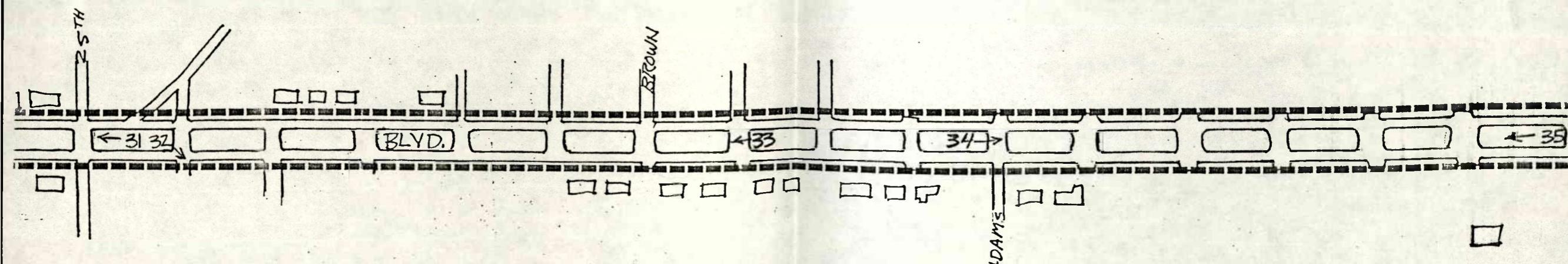
This year's dinner Oct. 12 will feature former Ambassador Robert White as presentation speaker. Jack Sheikman, labor leader and driving force behind formation of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, will be introduced as the Debs Award winner.

It takes more than just lip service to keep a facility like this going.

If you've got ideas that could help, contact Hopple at 232-2163.



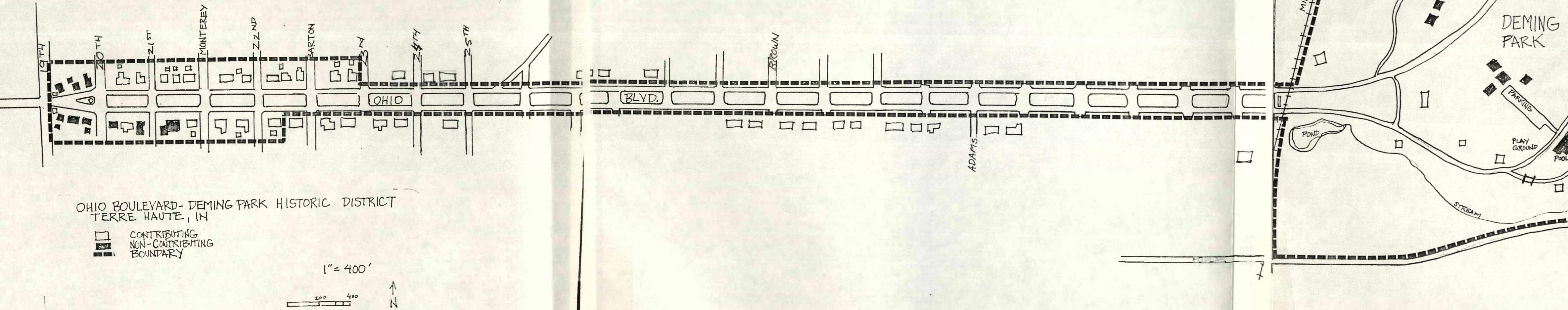
MAP 4 - PHOTOS 36-60  
DHO BOULEVARD-DEMING PL  
ERRE HAUTE, IN

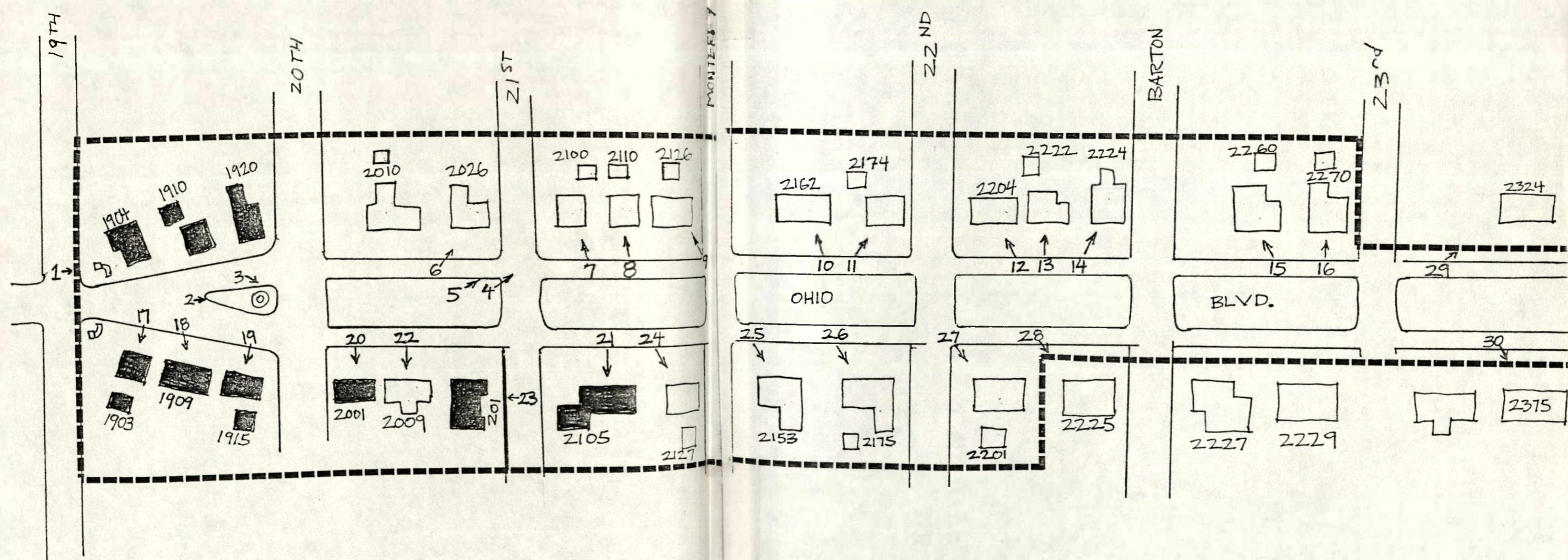


MAP 3 - PHOTOS 31-35

OHIO BOULEVARD - DEMING PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
TERRE HAUTE, IN

— BOUNDARY  
← 12 PHOTOS





Community Affairs File

X Community Affairs File

## OFFICIAL GRASS

SANTA FE, N.M. (UPI) — State Rep. James Caudell introduced a bill Tuesday to make blue grama grass the official state grass of New Mexico.

## Four Handguns Are Taken in Burglary

City police are investigating several burglary, theft and prowler complaints received Tuesday and early Wednesday including an entry of the Bait King Store, 1101 S. 6th St., where four handguns were taken.

The report stated that entry was gained at the sporting goods shop by breaking out a door-glass on the north side of the building. The missing weapons were described as three .38 caliber blue steel revolvers, and a .45 caliber revolver.

Carl Collins, RR 22, complained that someone took some tools from his truck parked on the Imperial Lanes lot, including two electric saws, a router and a drill, total value approximately \$500.

Roy Patridge, Evansville, a meat salesman, reported about \$100 worth of beef and sausage taken from his locked truck while he was making a delivery at the Ponderosa Restaurant, 2301 Wabash Ave., Tuesday evening.

Virginia Staley, 3630 Wallace, complained of an entry at her home earlier, but stated nothing was apparently missing.

Carol Spence, an employee of the Vigo County Health Department, reported that her billfold was taken from her purse during the noon hour Tuesday. A small sum of cash and several credit cards were among the missing items. Police have the description of a suspect seen in the office during the time involved.

X *Historic House*  
**Dreiser House**

(T.H.)  
**Named Nat'l**

**Landmark**

J JAN 3 1973

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Seventh District Congressman John Meyers announced today that the Department of Interior has approved the addition of the Paul Dresser Home in Vigo County to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of distinction identifying for the people

sites, buildings and structures significant in American history and worthy of preservation for their historic value.

Congressman Myers said the addition of the Paul Dresser Home to the National Register qualifies it for protection and possibly Federal assistance for further restoration.

The Paul Dresser Home was moved to its present site overlooking the Wabash River in Fairbanks Park in Terre Haute in June, 1963. It was designated as a State Shrine and Memorial by the 1967 Indiana General Assembly.

The Vigo County Historical Society is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the home.

## Established 1896



## Real Estate Loans

**SAVINGS**

**INSURED**



**QUARTERLY**

**EARNINGS**

**FORT HARRISON**  
**Savings Association**

724 Wabash Avenue

232-6038

combination.  
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# NATIONAL MUSICAL COUNCIL PLACQUE DEDICATED AT DRESSER BIRTHPLACE

Community Affairs File

Dresser, Paul

Ts JUL 4 1976



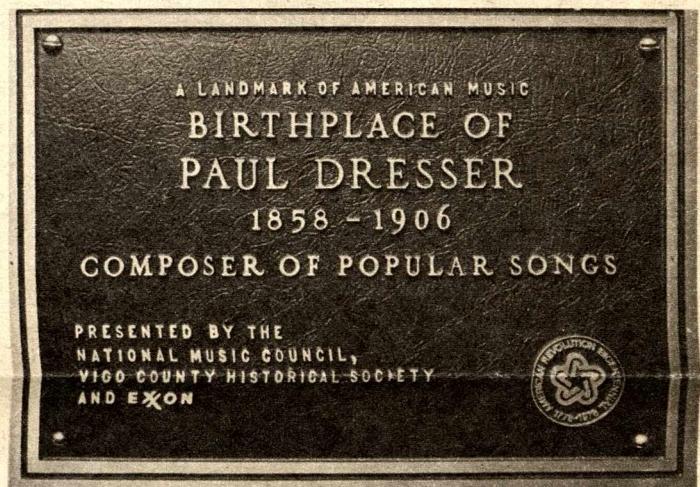
FREDERICK BLACK JR., right, chairman of the dedication ceremony, chats with Dr. John Ramer and Dr. A. W. Cavins.

The birthplace of Paul Dresser, composer of Indiana's state song, was originally located at 318 S. 2nd St., and was moved to Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive on June 5, 1963, and opened to the public on July 9, 1966. Dresser was born in this house on April 22, 1858.

A workingman's home, the restoration is significant because it demonstrates how 90 per cent of Hoosiers lived during the pre-Civil War period. All furnishings in the five rooms are dated prior to 1875.

The Dresser House was designated a State Shrine and Memorial by the 1967 Indiana General Assembly, and in 1973 was included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Earlier this year, the National Music Council designated the Dresser Home "A Landmark in American Music," and presented a special plaque during an impressive dedication ceremony.



"A LANDMARK OF AMERICAN MUSIC" is the designation of the National Music Council plaque at the Paul Dresser Birthplace.

Community Affairs File

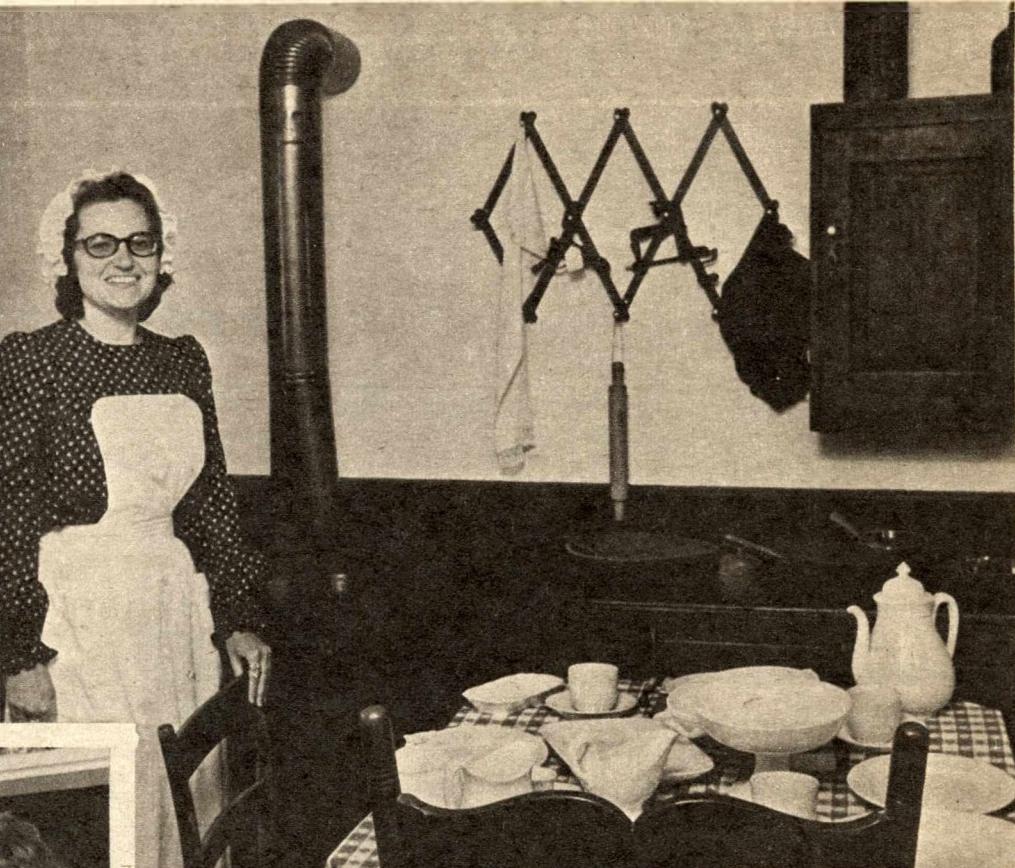
Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE  
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AN IMPORTANT PART of the program was the singing of "On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away" by Dr. John Ramer, president, and members of the Terre Haute Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Singing in America.

MISS PHYLLIS YERYAR, hostess at the Dresser Birthplace, explains the kitchen furnishings.

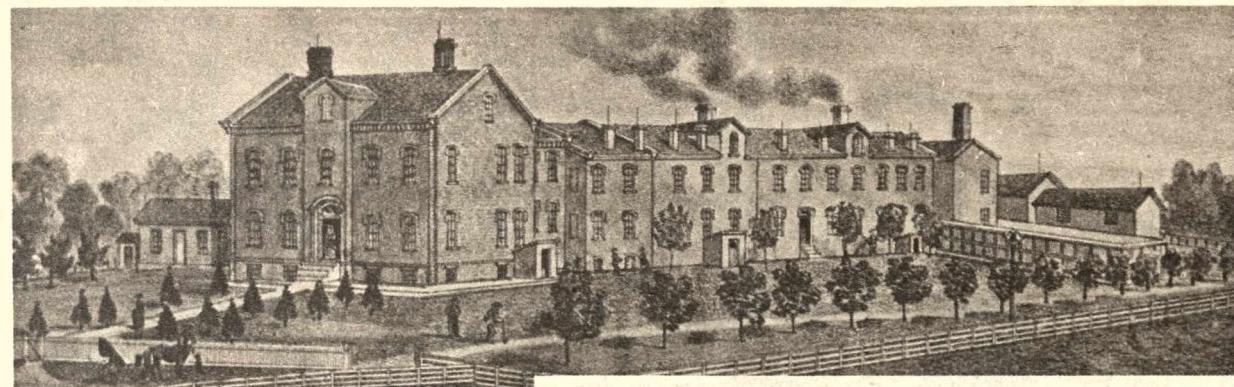


DR. VICTOR DANEK, Jon Polifrone, Dr. Ethel Smith, Dr. Ramon Meyer and Mrs. Victor Danel were among the local representatives of 59 musical organizations that make up the National Music Council.

TRIO AT THE DEDICATION —  
From left are Mrs. A. W. Cavins,  
Mrs. J. P. McKibben, a member  
of the Historical Society Board  
of Directors, and Dr. Cavins,  
president of the Historical  
Society.



# THE WAY IT WAS 100 YEARS AGO . . .

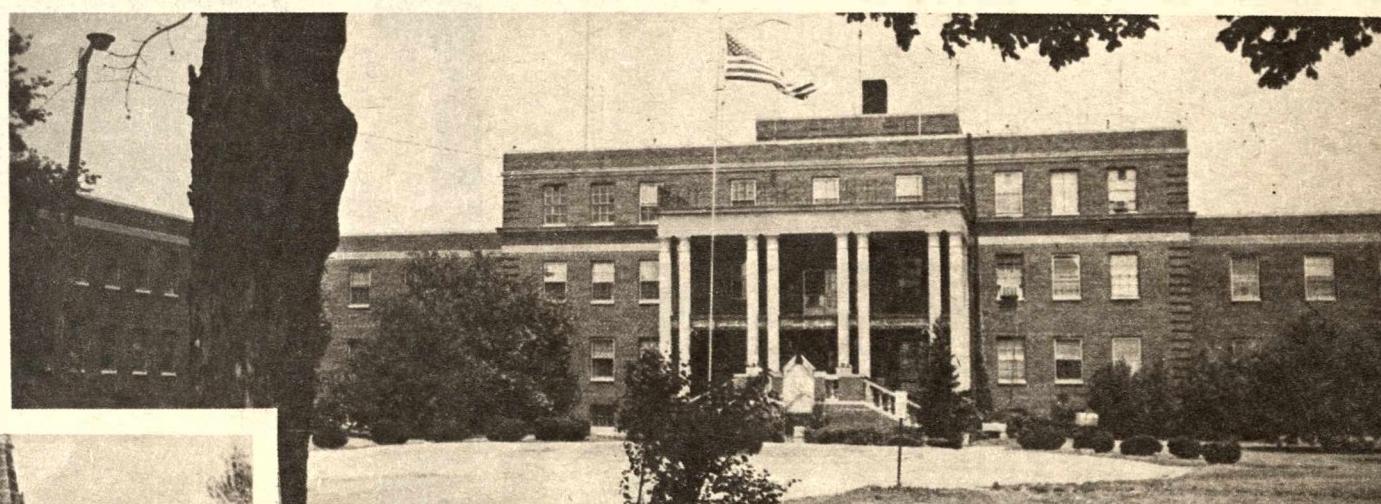


A special Bicentennial art exhibit at the Historical Museum features some 1874 drawings of Terre Haute landmarks, some of which still remain.

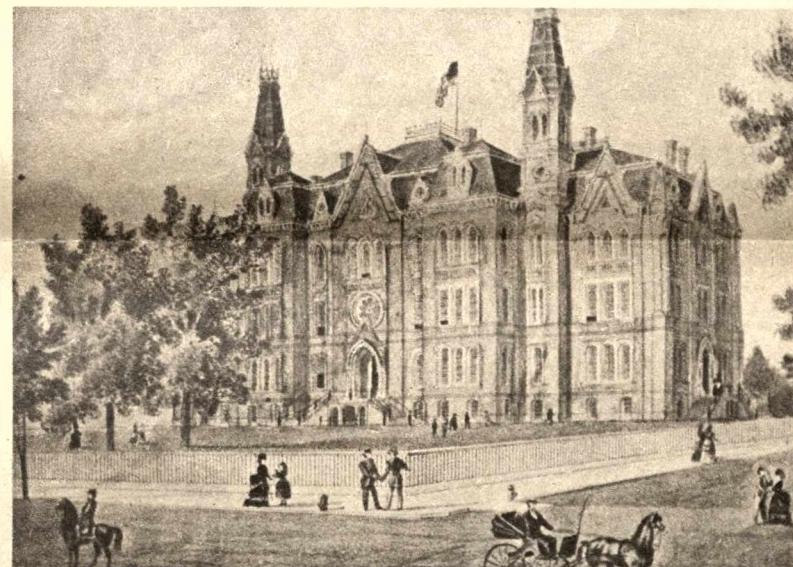
THE VIGO COUNTY POOR HOUSE 100 years ago was located at the same site as the present County Home, at Fruitridge and Maple.



THE VIGO COUNTY HOME TODAY. The present building at 3500 Maple Ave. was built in the 1930s and a new 60-bed addition was completed in 1976.



THE INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING occupied the site of the present Administration Building on the ISU campus. Quite a contrast, then and now.



COL. R. N. HUDSON'S residence at 6th and Oak Streets is now the Woman's Department Club.



THE WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT CLUB today. The exterior has obviously undergone some changes since it was built for Col. Hudson.

S FEB 1973  
**Dresser Home**  
Paul  
**Gains National**  
Community Affairs File  
**Register Honor**

The Department of Interior has approved addition of the Paul Dresser Home in Terre Haute to the National Register of Historic Places.

Announcement of the Department's action was made Wednesday by U.S. Rep. John Myers (R-7th Dist.).

+ + +

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of distinction identifying sites, buildings and structures significant in American history and worthy of preservation for their historic value.

Congressman Myers noted the addition of the Paul Dresser Home to the National Register qualifies the Vigo County landmark for protection and possible federal assistance for further restoration.

+ + +

The Dresser home was moved to its present site in Fairbanks Park in June of 1963 and was designated as a State Shrine and Memorial by the 1967 Indiana General Assembly.

The Vigo County Historical Society operates and maintains the home.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE:

Vigo County Public Library

# *Historic Houses (W.U.)*

## Dresser Home here predates Civil War

T s JUN 15 1985

The Paul Dresser Home, located in Fairbanks Park, has not always been in this location. Paul Dresser was born April 22, 1859, in the house, which was located at 318 S. Second St.

According to the abstract, the Dressers bought the house from George F. Ellis, proprietor of the Riverside Woolen Mill where Paul's father was employed. They bought the house for \$300.

Paul's mother sewed for Wabash Avenue Tailors for 50 cents a day to help pay for the house. The deed shows the last installment of the \$300 note on the property was paid by Paul's father on Jan. 18, 1859. Four and one-half years later, in 1863, Dresser sold the house for \$875.

The house was built several years before the Civil War. Restoration and furnishings show how the working man lived during that time. The original house had a living room, bedroom and kitchen. (The kitchen now in the home was added after the move, because the original kitchen was not included in the move.)

Paul's father added two bedrooms upstairs, one for the boys and one for the girls. These upstairs rooms were reached by an outside stairway, a common arrangement in the early days. The

### Vigo Historical Society

only heat that reached the upstairs bedrooms came through two holes cut into the floors over the downstairs room.

The floors appear to be poplar. The walls are nearly 10 inches thick in the original part of the house. No plumbing, no closets, no electricity, no central heating ... As far as we can tell there were no fireplaces, so stoves, either wood or coal, were used for heating. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting.

The house was moved to Fairbanks Park June 5, 1963. It was opened July 9, 1966.

The building has been designated a State Shrine and Memorial and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dresser Home is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays during the summer months. Special tours may be scheduled through the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, 235-9717, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

## DRESSER'S BIRTHPLACE

THE BIRTHPLACE of Paul Dresser has come home to the banks of the Wabash that he made so famous in song.

Through the Vigo County Historical Society at Terre Haute, Dresser's boyhood home has been moved from its earlier site on Second Street to a plot on Dresser Drive in Fairbanks Park. Here, in the park along the Wabash, it is likely to remain, safe from the demolition threatened by an urban renewal program and featured as a shrine to the man who made the Wabash River famous throughout the world. Dresser's *On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away* has been the state song since 1913.

The Dresser home is simple and unimposing, typical of the Federal style architecture that was popular when Dresser was born in 1857. It is a two-story brick structure with a front porch originally supported by fancy pillars and decorated with scroll work that was a hallmark of the Midwest in the nineteenth Century. Small and compact, it contains a door flanked by a pair of windows on the ground floor and has a well-balanced set of three windows above. There is little to distinguish it from countless other homes built during the same period.

EXCEPT THAT THE house typifies an architectural period, and also that it attests to the simple circumstances in which his parents lived, the interest in a visit to the Dresser home lies not so much in what it is as what it stands for.

Dresser's father was Paul Dreiser, a woolen mill employee, of modest circumstances. The name "Dresser" was Paul's own invention, a change he made after running away from St. Meinrad Seminary, where he studied briefly for the priesthood, and joining a traveling medicine show. The original family name, however, was retained by Paul's brother, Theodore Dreiser, who became one of America's great novelists.

It was a long leap from the modest little home in Terre Haute to the fame of Tin Pan Alley, but Dresser made it successfully by penning 106 songs, many of which became hit tunes. *My Gal Sal* and *Just Tell Them That You Saw Me* were among his other favorites.

Dresser prospered for a few years as a song writer and publisher but finally his health broke and his firm failed. He died in 1906 in New York City and was buried there. Later his remains were removed to Chicago, where his mother had been buried.

WITH HIS HOOSIER ties broken, Dresser's childhood home takes on added significance at its new location on the banks of the Wabash.

• • • By RICHARD S. SIMONS



**Have You Seen? . . .**



# Paul Dresser birthplace: a working man's home

TS MAY 18 1980

Paul Dresser, composer of Indiana's state song, was born in this house on April 22, 1858. Originally located at 318 S. 2nd St., it was moved to Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive on June 5, 1963, and opened to the public July 9, 1966.

A working man's home, the restoration is significant because it demonstrates how ninety per cent of the Hoosiers lived during the pre-Civil War period.

The house was designated as a State Shrine and Memorial by the 1967 state legislature. In 1973 it was included on the National Register of Historic Places.

The house at its original location was due for demolition when the area was cleared for redevelopment, and would have been removed if arrangements had not been made for its relocation and operation by the Vigo County Historical Society.

The structure was so fragile that the ell at the rear could not be moved

with the house, and the main house had to be "crated" for moving. It was an exciting event as it was moved slowly from its original site on "dollies" down Second street to Farrington and over to Fairbanks Park where it was placed on previously prepared foundation.

The house was repaired and a few years later a small addition was made on the north side where a small kitchen was added. There is no lighting or heat in the house except for a minimum of electric heat inconspicuously added to protect it from deterioration from the extreme cold and dampness. For this reason the house is not open during the colder months.

Since this was the home of a working man's family, it has been furnished with antiques of the period and the economic status of the family. The first floor contains the kitchen, bedroom and parlor. The two upstairs bedrooms are reached by an outside stairway.

Paul Dresser's parents were John Paul Dreiser and Sarah Mary Schnepf Dreiser. His famous brother was Theodore Dreiser, author of "An American Tragedy."

During the Gay Nineties, Paul Dresser was one of the most successful song writers of Tin Pan Alley. "On the Banks of the Wabash" became Indiana's State Song by act of the State Legislature in 1913. Other songs composed by Dresser include: "My Gal Sal," "Just Tell Them that You Saw Me," "The Old Flame Flickers and I Wonder Why," and "Our Country May She Always Be Right, but Our Country Right or Wrong." Dresser died on January 30, 1906, and is buried with his parents in St. Boniface Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.

Members of the Banks of the Wabash Chorus will help celebrate International Museum Day at the Dresser Birthplace. They will sing such songs as "Darkness on the Delta," "Wonderful World," and "Alexander's Rag Time Band" in addition to Dresser's "On the Banks of the Wabash."

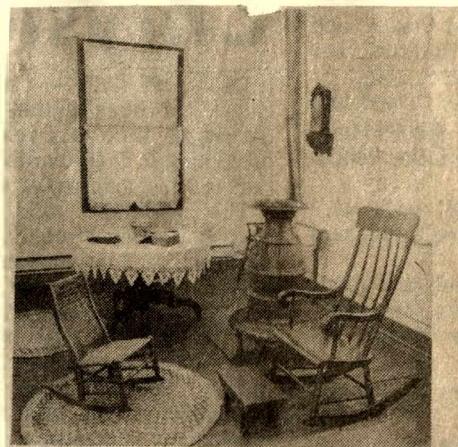
Members of the chorus participating are John Rector, Bernie Fredricks, Dick Walker, Dick Graham, Don Nelson, Carl Hagen, Harry Foy, Carl Holsapple, Kenny Roman, Carl Beatty, Carl Jones, Paul Hagen and Con Harrold.

Also, Jim Syester, Byron Smith, Pete Ray, Jack Newman, Jesse Jackson, Bob Follett, Terry Wence, Matt Woodings, Dave Boger, Dick Pierard, Harold Stanbaugh and Jim Walker.

The chorus director is Myke Lucas.

Open hours on the special day are 1 to 4 p.m. The chorus will sing at 2:30 p.m. Their performance will last approximately twenty minutes.

The Dresser Birthplace is open each Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. from May through September, weather permitting. Groups may arrange tours at other times by appointment. Allyson Lux is the summer hostess.



Dresser House interior

(over)



**Paul Dresser House**

T s APR 22 1984

# Dresser born 125 years ago

April 22 marks the 125th birth anniversary of Paul Dresser, Terre Haute's earliest contribution to the world of popular music.

His actual birthplace became a controversial issue when a picture postcard was distributed, pasted in albums, and whenever it comes to light to raise the question. The postcard shows a little brick house on Walnut Street between First and Second Streets incorrectly captioned "Paul Dresser's Birthplace." The house was torn down to make way for the Kroger market building now used by WBAK-TV station.

The actual birthplace stood at 318 S. Second St. When Paul Dresser was interviewed by an Indianapolis reporter and questioned about his place of birth, he was quoted as saying: "It was in 1859 and in the city of Terre Haute. It was in the Meyer property on the east side of Second Street between Poplar and Swan streets. The house is brick and has since had a second story added."

During his brief career, Dresser wrote some 106 popular songs. March 14, 1913, the Indiana General Assembly officially declared his composition "On The Banks of The Wabash, Far Away" as the state song of Indiana, thus assuring his musical immortality.

This magical and nostalgic song, one of the classics of American balladry, set a nation's people to singing the glories of a river they'd never seen and a state they'd never given much thought.

The song first hit the music stands 87 years ago this spring in 1897. Song writers, dramatists and poets, hearing it whistled on the streets and ~~sang~~ from the stages, called it "a

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

mother-lode ballad, Americanesque in genuine treatment."

The Indiana ballad has been interpreted four times under its own title as a motion picture, twice in silent and twice in talking films.

The song was becoming very popular in 1898 when Dresser came to town for a two-day visit. The first evening he was a dinner guest of Colonel and Mrs. E. E. South, along with Dr. and Mrs. Morehead. The Souths' small daughter, Mary, sang the now famous song for their distinguished guest.

It was Dr. Morehead who suggested that little Miss Mary be chosen as the one to whom the song was dedicated. The honor meant little to Mary, a young school girl at that time. She had never met Dresser but had heard her parents speak of him. Her name appears on each copy of the sheet music.

The next evening, the Souths were invited to sit with Dresser in his box at the Grand Opera House to enjoy the Elks Minstrel Show. Col. South was one of the early members of Elks Lodge No. 86 and active in all

its projects including taking part in its first minstrel show in 1893.

Dresser always remembered his old friends and their families. Louise Kerlin was the daughter of William S. "Bill" Kerlin, for many years an engineer on the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad. As a young boy, Paul had been a "candy butcher" on Kerlin's train, and the two became friends.

In 1899 Louise (now Mrs. Jack Norworth) had been on the stage for two years. While in Chicago to learn new songs, the piano player introduced her to Dresser, then considered the nation's top song writer. During the conversation he learned she was the daughter of his old friend who had been killed in 1893.

He asked Louise to sing the "Wabash" for him, and was so pleased with her voice he decided to help her make a name for herself. First he called the Chicago Tribune and announced that his kid sister, Louise Dresser, was in town and opening at the Masonic Roof Garden, then the finest vaudeville theater in Chicago. He explained that she had been calling herself Louise Kerlin, but was to be known in the future as Louise Dresser.

Next he called his good friend, John J. Murdock, owner and manager of the Masonic Roof Garden, and asked for an opening for his sister, which he received. With this fine send-off, Louise Dresser became a headline star singing Dresser's songs and commanding a salary of \$1,750 a week before leaving vaudeville for the movies.

She introduced "My Gal Sal," one of her biggest song hits, in 1905 at Keith's Union Square Theater in

New York. This sentimental ballad is alleged to have been inspired by Sarah "Sally" Fitzgerald, the small daughter of the family who lived across the street from the Dreiser-Dresser family.

Dresser would sometimes "borrow the use of" the Fitzgerald's piano, the old Chickering now housed at the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley. Song writer Dresser might get an inspiration for a song from somebody, practice the melody on several pianos in many locations, and then actually sit down and write the finished music and lyrics in still another place on another piano. Scattered over the country in museums and private homes are antique pianos alleged to be the THE Paul Dresser piano on which his song hits were composed.

In spite of his many successes, Dresser constantly feared he was losing his touch. When he was on top, he was the brightest light of Tin Pan Alley, but Paul Dresser died Jan. 24, 1906, at the age of 47, broke, shabby, down and out, and being cared for by his sister, Emma. He is buried beside his mother in St. Boniface Cemetery, Chicago, Ill.

The man who had written so many songs that touched the hearts of people all over the world, died of a broken heart along with his physical ailments. His publishing house had failed, and he didn't have money to plug his latest song, "My Gal Sal."

This last-published song became a success after his death. It would have rebuilt his fortune, and the resulting praise would have acted like a magic tonic. He could have put on his tall silk hat and frock coat and told Broadway that he had another hit.

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